



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DETENTION HEARING TOMORROW AFTERNOON
FOR EL PASO MAN PURPORTING TO BE A DENTIST AND HIS WIFE
WHO WERE INDICTED ON MAIL FRAUD AND TAX CHARGES**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that Raul Hector Villalobos and his wife Elizabeth Villalobos are scheduled to have a detention hearing at 4:00pm tomorrow before United States Magistrate Judge Norbert Garney to determine whether or not they will remain in custody pending trial.

The couple were indicted on federal mail fraud, wire fraud, making false and fictitious claims, and money laundering charges last week. They were arrested by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on Monday.

According to the indictment, beginning in November 1996, Mr. Villalobos performed dental procedures on patients in Juarez, Mexico despite not being licensed to practice dentistry in Texas, any other state in the United States or Mexico. During this period, he operated a dental clinic in Juarez, Mexico using the following business names: Centro Implantologico, Family Border Dental Care, Family Dental Care, Dental Laser and Implant, Dental Health and Smile Studio.

It is further alleged that Mr. Villalobos, on numerous dental claim forms, submitted to insurance companies, the "Billing Dentist" address as his personal residence where he was not providing dental care. By doing this, he committed mail fraud. He also used addresses in and around El Paso, Texas, to receive mail under the auspices of operating a dental practice. He also used these addresses to receive payment from insurance companies for dental work alleged to have been performed.

The indictment also alleges that he placed on patient dental billings and claim forms mailed to insurance companies for reimbursement, false locations of service, services not performed, and false and fictitious dates of service. He also used a license number purportedly assigned to him to practice dentistry which was false and fraudulent.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation. It is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Bill Lewis.

A indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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